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JUDITH CAMPBELL EXNER DENIES CONSPIRACY
Linked to John F. Kennedy and Mafia Bosses

Woman's JFK Revelations Deflate Interest in Staff Leak

Chronicle Washington Bureau

Washington — Now that a California woman has said she had a "close, personal relationship" with President John F. Kennedy, the Senate Intelligence Committee has apparently lost interest in pinpointing what it believes was a leak that led to the first public word of the association.

Earlier, committee sources said that some members of the committee, especially Democrats, were enraged by the leak. They were angry enough, the sources said, to threaten all staff members with lie detector tests if the source of the story could not be determined any other way.

But Wednesday after Judith Campbell Exner, the woman in question, held a news conference and confirmed the relationship, sources reported that interest in finding the leak had waned dramatically.

The woman's relationship with Kennedy, which she said lasted for just over two years in the early 1960s, was uncovered by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) wiretaps on the home of Chicago mobster Sam Giancana. He was found slain at that home earlier this year.

The FBI said Exner called Kennedy's private White House number from Giancana's tapped line, a point Exner denied Wednesday.

The Senate committee report on assassination attempts against foreign leaders referred to Exner only as "a close friend" of Kennedy.

Sen. John G. Tower, R-Tex., was a member of the drafting committee for the report, and said that he approved of the veiled reference to Exner.

Tower has refused to comment on the reports of dissension in the committee over the leak of the Exner story, claiming it was "internal committee business."

In a secret session earlier this month, the committee informally decided to ask all members of the committee staff to sign statements that they were not the source of a story which first appeared in Scripps-Howard papers in November about Kennedy and the woman.

If the statements did not uncover the source of the leak, the committee agreed in principle to subject the staff to lie detector tests, a plan now apparently dropped.